

Bucks County Herald 2022 PNA Grant report

Initiation of weekly column “On the Record: How Legislators voted”

The Pennsylvania NewsMedia Foundation grant of \$1,500 in 2022 provided support for initiation of “On the Record: How Legislators Voted,” a weekly column on local legislators’ votes in the Bucks County Herald.

The Herald recruited David Barry, a longtime reporter on national news, to report on votes recorded in Harrisburg and Washington, giving the local community an opportunity to see accurate numbers and understand how decisions affecting them were being made.

The column has been well-received by readers who appreciate the news, which is difficult or impossible to find on other media. The grant planted a seed that grew into a regular feature of the printed and online Herald. When the funding was used up, others provided the funding and the column continues in 2023.

Writer David Barry said, “As a former legislative reporter, I am proud to be part of the Herald’s effort to record the votes of our legislators every week. In an age of declining record-keeping by small newspapers, and newspapers in general, I am honored to be part of the task of keeping the public record.”

Barry is a former Associated Press reporter and winner of the 2007 Keystone Media Award for investigative reporting.

On the record

How legislators voted

David Barry, Politics Editor

Washington

U.S. Senate

March 10 S619 COVID-19 Origin Act of 2023. Bill requiring the Director of National Intelligence to declassify information relating to the origin of COVID-19. Sponsored by Sen. Joshua Hawley, R, Mo.

Passed 419-0

Bob Casey, D, Yes

March 9 PN27 Nomination of Daniel I. Werfel of the District of Columbia to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Confirmed 54-42

Bob Casey, D, Yes

March 9 PN 0175 Nomination of James Edward Simmons Jr. to be U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of California.

Confirmed 51-43

Bob Casey, D, Yes

March 9 PN91 Nomination of Maria Araujo Kahn of Connecticut to be U.S. Circuit Court Judge for the Second Circuit.

Confirmed 51-42

Bob Casey, D, Yes

U.S. House

March 9 HR140 Bill Protecting Speech from Government Interference. Prohibits federal employees from advocating for censorship of viewpoints in their official capacity. Introduced by James Comer, R, Ky.

Passed 219-206

Brian Fitzpatrick, R, Yes

March 9 HJR 27 Providing for Congressional Disapproval of the new ruling by the Department of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency expanding the definition of Waters of the United States under Federal Regulation. Sponsored by Sam Graves, R, Mo.

Passed 227-198

Brian Fitzpatrick, R, No

Pennsylvania

PA Senate

March 10 Resolution urging the USDA to allow 2% and whole milk, both flavored and unflavored, in school lunches without jeopardizing federal funding. Sponsored by Michele Brooks, R.

Passed 50-0

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